Lateral

Journal of the Cultural Studies Association

Introduction

by Joshua Falek | Aporias, Issue 13.1 (Spring 2024)

ABSTRACT This special section provides snapshots of the field of cultural studies, querying theoretical lapses, overlaps, and contentions between and within competing texts. In these short pieces, emerging scholars enter contemporary or historic academic debates to complicate the canon without a desire for resolution.

KEYWORDS cultural studies, scholarly communication, theory

Cultural studies has never been a stranger to controversy, disagreement, or drama. But these disputes emerge precisely because there are stakes to the minutiae, because something as seemingly trivial as whether a term is framed as a verb or a noun can make the most profound of differences in how we see and understand the world. Other times, analysis yields to sites where memory, justice, or even life itself may be on the line, and so our debates take on an even greater tenor of urgency. Yet, in the desire to publish and/or perish, or to introduce some grand intervention, rarely are there the opportunities to merely limn specific contradictions. What would happen if instead of meditating on a potential fix, we stayed with the trouble just a bit longer?

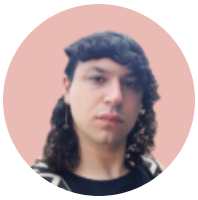
In Aporias we embrace the debate. Here, emerging scholars tarry with contemporary or historic controversies or lacunae within cultural studies or related fields that have yet to be properly synthesized. Rather than settle these conceptual dilemmas, these scholars each explore a disagreement or distinction without any intention of resolution. Wading through these divisions, these articles

provoke future thought by investigating the lapses, overlaps, and contentions between and within competing theories and texts.

In particular, this special section of *Lateral* was constructed as a vehicle for the research of junior scholars, valuing the unique insight of these writers. Due to their deep immersion in texts—whether it be from their comprehensive examinations, writing their dissertation, the terror of the academic job market, or their sheer love of scholarship—these early career researchers bring fresh perspectives that disrupt canonical thought and nuance earlier conversations.

So, enter Aporias, a section devoted to mining cultural studies, to embracing the mess, and to reorienting us toward what may be next.
For details on submissions, see the Aporias CFP < https://csalateral.org/upcoming/#aporias> .

Author Information



Joshua Falek

Joshua Falek is a PhD candidate at York University in Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies. They hold an MA in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto. Their research thinks together trans subjectivity, anti-Blackness, and affect. They are the editor of Aporias, a special section of *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*. Their work has been published in or is forthcoming in *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *Rhizomes*, *New Centennial Review*, *Feminist Theory*, *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*, *Cultural Studies*, and the book, *Blessings Beyond the Binary*.

View all of Joshua Falek's articles.

Article details

Joshua Falek, "Introduction – Aporias," *Lateral* 13.1 (2024).

https://doi.org/10.25158/L13.1.21

This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. Copyright is retained by authors.

Lateral is the peer-reviewed, open access journal of the Cultural Studies Association.

ISSN 2469-4053